

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.55am AEDT)	7639	81	1.1
NZX 50	11661	21	0.2
DJIA Futures	38858	0	0.0
S&P 500 Futures	5047	0	0.0
NASDAQ Futures	17913	0	0.0

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens Friday trade with an overnight \$A appreciation, another batch of large-cap stocks, including major domestic insurers, reporting earnings, and fresh key regional economic data in hand, as the US heads towards a Monday public holiday weekend.

This, following a string of weak select international economic data and forecasts yesterday and overnight.

US equities markets turned to settled 0.3% - 0.9% higher overnight.

Locally today, no major domestic economic data reports are expected.

Much trade will focus on earnings reports and outlooks.

Also today, **ARG** and **SYM** trade **ex-dividend**. Please see pp3-4 for a detailed ex-dividends list.

Regionally today, **South Korea** has reported January **import and export prices** pre-trade, these rising year-on-year by 0.2% and 3.7% respectively.

For December, import and export prices were recorded down 4.1% and 2.3% respectively on an annualised basis.

China's markets will remain closed today but will trade Monday.

In overnight **commodities** trade, **oil** swung higher again, by 1.5% - 1.8%.

US **gold** (Comex) futures also turned higher, trading above \$US2014.5/oz.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) recorded another slight increase, remaining beneath \$US129.2/t.

US **copper** futures were pushed US6c/lb, to \$US3.76/lb.

Last night's **LME** final 3-mth evening price updates were unavailable from IRESS at time of publication. These are expected to become available via IRESS by 11.30am AEDT.

The \$A appreciated to US65.25c after approaching US65.00c earlier yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	38773	349	0.9
S&P 500	5030	29	0.6
NASDAQ	15906	47	0.3
FTSE 100	7598	29	0.4
DAX 30	17047	101	0.6

*** Financial services listing – 11am AEDT – WAG ***
Today's Stock Watch
QBE Insurance Group (QBE)

48c, 10%-franked final dividend from 30c, 10%-franked a year ago.

131% higher, \$US1.355B full year NPAT.

10% higher, \$US20.826B revenue.

Insurance Australia Group (IAG)

10c, 40%-franked interim dividend from 6c, 30%-franked a year ago.

16.8% lower, \$407M interim NPAT.

15.5% higher, 8.685B revenue.

Inghams Ltd (ING)

12c, fully-franked interim dividend from 4.5c a year ago.

\$63.4M interim NPAT from \$17.2M.

8.7% higher, \$1.64B revenue.

60c NTA from 46c.

\$345.9M net debt.

Retaining an October 2023 forecast of a lower 2H FY24 result than for 1H.

Costs are expected to come down in the medium-term, however.

Cleanaway Waste (CWY)

Flat, 2.45c interim dividend.

51.6% higher, \$74.3M interim NPAT.

5.3% higher 1.87B revenue.

HomeCo Daily Needs REIT (HDN)

\$10.7M interim net loss from a \$95.4M net profit a year ago.

7% higher, \$179.0M revenue.

Charter Hall Retail REIT (CQR)

Previously-declared 12.3c interim dividend from 13.0c a year ago.

\$42.1M interim net loss from a \$124.8M net profit.

2.2% higher, \$109.4M revenue.

\$4.54 NTA from \$4.73. \$518M available liquidity.

Eagers Automotive (APE)

A cyber incident reported last month has reportedly resulted in APE data being published online.

APE says an investigation into the claim will take 'some time'.

Tyro Payments (TYR)

TYR has agreed a settlement following the legal proceedings initiated by TYR against Kounta.

Under the settlement, Kounta will pay TYR \$10M.



Shanghai Composite

2866

Public

Holiday

Overseas Markets Commentary

An economic data- and revised forecasts-based jump in perceived timing for potential interest rate cuts this year appeared to provide ultimate buoyancy for major European, UK and US equities markets overnight.

A UK GDP update confirmed the UK was in technical recession on a three months' basis, although not an annualised one.

In addition, some weaker-than-expected US data supported views of interest rate cuts this year.

This weakened the \$US, the \$US index declining ~0.3%, in turn helping push key commodities prices higher.

Further, the European Commission (EC) published its Winter 2024 forecasts, these including predicted 0.8% 2024 European Union (EU) economic growth, rather than the 1.2% forecast in the Autumn forecasts report.

This appeared to strengthen views the European Central Bank (ECB) could begin to cut interest rates in April or June this year.

Also overnight however, ECB president Christine Lagarde reiterated to a European parliament committee a warning about cutting interest rates too hastily.

At the same time, Ms Lagarde acknowledged economic activity would remain 'subdued' for at least the near-term.

Earlier yesterday, Japan's December quarter GDP confirmed a technical recession, with GDP declining by 0.1% over the three months after falling 0.8% during the September quarter.

On an annualised basis, GDP was down 0.4% following the September quarter's 3.3% year-on-year drop.

For the December quarter, economists had anticipated 0.3% growth for the three months and a 1.4% year-on-year increase.

In Australia, the January unemployment rate was reported at 4.1%, 0.2% greater than for December.

Among a swag of overnight economic data releases, **euro zone** December international trade statistics included a €16.8B surplus from a €20.3B November surplus, and against an €8.5B December 2022 deficit.

December imports dropped by 18.7% (to a 2.5-year low of €201.19) and exports declined by 8.8% (to an eight-month low of €218.7B).

In the **UK**, December quarter GDP declined by 0.3% across the three months after falling by 0.1% during the September quarter.

On an annualised basis December quarter GDP was down 0.2% against the September quarter's 0.2% year-on-year growth.

The December GDP estimate came in as a 0.1% decline following a 0.2% November increase.

The NIESR's GDP tracker indicated a 0.1% decline for the UK GDP reading yet to come for January.

In the meantime, December industrial production grew 0.6% for the month and also year-on-year, representing a second consecutive month of output growth.

UK December international trade figures included a £2.6B deficit from a £3.7B November shortfall. Imports fell by 3.4% in December and exports by 2.0%.

Pre-Open Announcements

RPMGlobal Holdings (* RUL)

\$6.843M interim profit, from a \$1.165M 1H FY23 net profit. 20.6% higher, \$56.217M revenue. 13.3c NTA from 12.3c. \$23.3M cash. No debt.

Additional details, including within a presentation, lodged post-trade yesterday.

Way 2 Vat (* W2V)

Resuming from a trading halt called in early trade yesterday, after W2V had traded as high as 2.3c from Wednesday's 1.4c close and yesterday's 1.8c open.

In the couple of hours' of yesterday's trade prior to the trading halt, 85.76M W2V shares had changed hands across 820 transactions.

Pre-trade, W2V had lodged an announcement heralding an AI-driven auditing project.

In response to an ASX price query, W2V pointed out the announcement and credited the trade activity to this.

W2V last traded at 1.65c.

Duxton Water (* D2O)

January update lodged post-trade yesterday.

Genetic Technologies (GTG)

GTG independent director Nick Burrows has resigned from the GTG board.

The Australian Wealth Advisors Group (* WAG)

Financial services group scheduled to list on the ASX at **11am** AEDT, following a \$5M IPO at 25c per share. 74.365M quoted shares.

Resources

Lion One Metals (LLO)

\$C3.49M interim net loss against a \$2.02M net loss for the six months to 31 December 2022.

\$C1.31M revenue. Sales costs tallied \$C5.64M, however. \$C13.45M cash and equivalents.

LLO trade remains suspended.

Australian Mines (AUZ)

Brazil rare earth and lithium exploration has recommenced. Details lodged post-trade yesterday.

Arrow Minerals (AMD)

AMD has appointed (the former) Atlas Iron founding MD David Flanagan as MD, following shareholder approval yesterday of the plan disclosed 13 December 2023.

In addition and in association, AMD has appointed Jeff Dowling as non-executive chair.

Mr Dowling is a previous Atlas iron director and previous chair of (the also former) Sirius Resources.

Recent AMD executive chair Tommy McKeith remains with AMD as a non-executive director.



Among a wave of mixed **US** economic indicators, weekly new unemployment claims soundly undershot expectations, coming in at 212,000 against predictions for 220,000, the same as the (upwardly) revised tally for the previous week.

January retail sales fell by 0.8% for the month, against consensus for a 0.1% decline following December's 0.4% rise.

The Philadelphia Fed and New York (Empire State) Fed index February manufacturing indices each improved substantially however, to 5.2 from -10.6 and to -2.4 from -43.7 respectively.

January import and export prices each rose by 0.8% following a 0.7% December pullback.

Against January 2023, prices were down 1.3% and 2.4% respectively.

Tonight in the **US**, January producer prices are due, together with January housing starts and building permits and the initial February consumer sentiment reading as calculated by the University of Michigan.

Elsewhere, Russia's central bank convenes a monetary policy meeting and announces outcomes. The bank's governor will also host a press conference.

Bridgestone, ENI and POSCO Holdings are among companies listed to report earnings or provide updates later today and tonight.

NB: US markets will be closed Monday due to a public holiday.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (COMEX 100 Apr)	2014.9	oz	10.6	0.5
Silver (COMEX 5000 Mar)	22.95	oz	0.56	2.5
Platinum (Spot)	897	oz	6	0.7
WTI Crude (NYMEX Mar)	78.03	bbl	1.39	1.5
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Apr)	82.86	bbl	1.26	1.5
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	129.17	t	0.07	0.1
Copper (LME 3mth Evening) (14Feb)	8196	t	-63	-0.8
Nickel	16348	t	82	0.5
Aluminium	2235	t	9	0.4
Lead	2016	t	19	0.9
Zinc	2312	t	-2	-0.1
Tin	27465	t	-107	-0.4

Commodities Commentary

Oil – a greater-than-expected pullback in US retail sales pushed the \$US lower overnight, supporting crude prices in other currencies.

Also overnight however, the International Energy Agency's (IEA) monthly petroleum market report included a cut in the 2024 demand growth forecast to 1.22MMbbl/d from 1.24MMbbl/d.

In addition, earlier yesterday and yesterday evening, recessionary GDP figures were reported for Japan and the US, impacting demand expectations.

Tonight, a weekly US petroleum drill rig report is due from Baker Hughes.

Gold – weak international growth data and a larger-than-predicted decline in US retail sales, coupled with recent gold price falls, sparked greater gold interest overnight.

Further, recent AMD non-executive director Frazer Tabearnt has resigned from the AMD board.

Prodigy Gold (PRX)

Refuting statements on trading platforms and market-related websites claiming PRX plans to pay an 87c-per-share dividend. PRX says it is not about to declare or pay a dividend.

PRX traded as high as 0.9c yesterday before closing at 0.8c, up 33.3% for the session on a 30.6M share turnover.

20.47M PRX shares changed hands Wednesday as the stock traded between 0.4c and 0.7c.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
First Au	FAU	19 Feb
GCX Metals	GCX	19 Feb
Hastings Technology Metals	HAS	19 Feb
Hazer Group	HZR	19 Feb
Kin Mining	KIN	16 Feb
Triangle Energy (Global)	TEG	19 Feb

Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Advanced Health Intelligence	AHI	5 Feb
Credit Intelligence	CI1	12 Feb
DomaCom Ltd	DCL	12 Feb
European Lithium	EUR	6 Feb
Lion One Metals	LLO	14 Feb
Moab Minerals	MOM	5 Feb
Pan Asia Metals	PAM	1 Feb
Revasum Inc	RVS	5 Feb
Reward Minerals	RWD	7 Feb

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
ARG	Today	16.5	100	3.82
SYM	Today	35	100	1.13
DVR	Mon	10	100	6.00
CGF	Tue	13	100	3.36
CPU	Tue	40	20	2.68
DHG	Tue	2	100	1.69
KPG	Tue	0.44	100	0.87
AGL	Wed	26	0	3.69
CBA	Wed	215	100	3.94
AUI	Thu	17	100	3.61
JBH	Thu	158	100	4.87
VUK	Thu	3.82	0	2.02
FID	Fri (23 Feb)	18.2	100	4.52



The \$US index fell by ~0.3%.

Base metals – overnight base metals trade was pushed and pulled overnight by a weaker \$US and some dour economic growth data, coupled with lowered growth forecasts.

In addition, yesterday BHP (ASX: BHP) had announced it was reviewing all *nickel* operations in Western Australia and planning to place its goldfields nickel smelter under care and maintenance come mid-year. Further, large charges would be included in interim results due this coming Tuesday.

China's markets remain **closed today** but will resume after the Lunar New Year week on Monday.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.6526	0.0043	0.66
EUR – USD	1.0772	0.0046	0.43

US Data Tonight

Producer prices	Jan
Housing starts	Jan
Building permits	Jan
Uni of Michigan consumer sentiment (initial)	Feb

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

South Korea	Import & export prices	Jan
Japan	Tertiary industry index (3.30pm AEDT)	Dec
UK	Retail sales	Jan
Germany	Wholesale prices	Jan
Russia	BoR policy meeting outcomes	16 Feb

Need More Information?

Contact your State One Stockbroking advisor on 08 9288 3388 or 1300 651 898, or by email, advice@stateone.com.au

GUD	Fri	18.5	100	3.55
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Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	ASX	Interim (webcast 11am)
	COF	Interim (webcast 11am)
	CQR	Interim
	CWY	Interim (w/cast tele 9.30am)
	DRR	Interim (tele 10.30am)
	HDN	Interim (w/cast tele 10.30am)
	IAG	Interim (webcast 9am)
	ING	Interim (webcast 10am)
	QBE	Full year (w/cast tele 10am)
Mon	A2M	Interim (tele 9am)
	ALD	Full year (w/cast tele 10am)
	BEN	Interim
	BSL	Interim
	COH	Interim (w/cast tele 10am)
	GPT	Full year
	GWA	Interim (webcast 10am)
	LLC	Interim
	MEA	Interim (webinar 10am)
	NXL	Interim (webcast 10am)
	ORA	Interim
	RWC	Interim (webcast 9am)
	SPZ	Interim (w/cast tele 10.30am)
	YAL	Full year
Tue	ANN	Interim (webcast 8am)
	ARB	Interim (webcast 10am)
	AUB	Interim (w/cast tele 10.30am)
	BBN	Interim (tele 9.15am)
	BHP	Interim
	BVS	Interim (w/cast tele 9.30am)
	CNI	Interim (webcast 11am)
	CRN	Interim (w/cast tele 10am)
	EHL	Interim (webcast tele midday)
	HMC	Interim (w/cast tele 10.30am)
	HUB	Interim (webcast 11.30am)
	IFM	Interim (webcast 11am)
	INA	Interim
	JDO	Interim
	LNK	Interim (w/cast tele 9.30am)
	MCY	Interim (w/cast tele 9am)
	MMS	Interim (webcast 9am)
	MND	Interim (webcast 10am)
	MP1	Interim (w/cast tele 10.30am)
	NWL	Interim (webcast 9.30am)



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RFG	Interim (w/cast tele 10am)
SGM	Interim (webcast 9.30am)
SHL	Interim (tele 10am)
SRG	Interim (webcast 11am)
STP	Interim (w/cast tele 9.30am)
THL	Interim (w/cast tele 10am)